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CHAPTER 1

THE MILITARY WORKING DOG (MWD) UNIT

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Enclosure (1)

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## CHAPTER 1

## THE MILITARY WORKING DOG (MWD) UNIT

1-1. Composition of MWD Team. A MWD team is composed of one MWD/handler, Navy Enlisted Classification (NEC) MA-2005/Military Occupational Speciality 5812. The handler will have completed the MWD handler course instructed at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB). Individuals may not receive the MWD handler NEC through an on-the-job training (OJT) program. However, MWD handlers originally trained solely for patrol dog handling may receive comprehensive OJT for detector dog handling, with prior approval from the MWD program manager at Chief of Naval Operations (N09N3)/Naval Criminal Investigative Service (Code 24F).

FOR USMC ONLY: Patrol dog handlers may complete OJT to handle a drug/explosive detector dog, but must attend formal training within 1 year of assignment to a detector dog. Units must notify the MWD program manager at Commandant of the Marine Corps, Headquarters Marine Corps (POS-10) before conducting detector dog handler OJT. OJT detector dog teams will not be certified to conduct law enforcement operations.

1-2. Kennel Master. The kennel master exercises direct supervision over the MWD unit and is responsible to the security officer/provost marshal for managing and operating the MWD section. The kennel master will be a qualified patrol/detector dog handler (NEC MA-2005) with a minimum of 3 years experience and a graduate of the MWD Supervisor course of instruction (NEC MA-2006) at Lackland AFB. At commands not having an assigned kennel master, the senior dog handler will be designated as kennel supervisor and will perform the duties described below, in addition to working his/her assigned dog. The kennel master/supervisor will:

- a. Know the mission of the command and advise security supervisors on the best use of MWD teams.
- b. Know the threats to and vulnerabilities of resources being protected by MWD teams; assist in preparing local operating

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procedures and instructions for team assignments; and ensure handlers follow the instructions related to their assignments.

c. Ensure a realistic MWD training program is developed and implemented, and teams complete required proficiency training.

d. Ensure assigned MWD teams are skilled in their duties by conducting frequent proficiency trials. Ensure MWD teams complete command validity certification.

e. Ensure that adequate provisions are made for the health, safety, and well-being of assigned MWDs.

f. Ensure that handlers understand the physical and psychological characteristics and capabilities of their MWDs, basic principles of conditioning, and the advantages of using dogs. Ensure that handlers understand responses by their MWDs, i.e., the presence of an intruder, drugs/explosives, etc.

g. Obtain equipment and supplies for the MWD section.

1-3. Kennel Support Personnel. When manning and resources allow, kennel support personnel may be assigned to the kennels. The personnel assigned to kennel support duties must be interested and willing to work with dogs. The kennel master will ensure support personnel are given OJT in the care and feeding of MWDs, detector and patrol dog training, kennel sanitation, disease prevention, symptom recognition, and emergency first aid care. Personnel who have been relieved of police duties for misconduct, pending investigation/disciplinary action, etc., should not be assigned to kennel support duties. Kennel support personnel will:

a. Complete the job qualification requirements as outlined in appendix C.

b. Help care and feed MWDs, maintain kennel facilities and equipment.

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c. Ensure unauthorized personnel do not enter the kennel area.

d. Assist the kennel master and handlers in maintaining the efficiency of the MWD section.

1-4. Basic Considerations of the MWD Unit. The security officer/provost marshal and kennel master determine the duty cycles, duty hours, and methods of using MWD teams. In making these determinations, mandatory training, task evaluations for maintaining certification, and the care of dogs, kennels, and equipment should be considered. This should not preclude participation in most watch section schemes, in fact, MWD teams should be assigned as part of a security watch section.

a. Handlers should take part in briefing sessions to be knowledgeable of security issues. Duty cycles should include one proficiency trial per week to allow kennel masters and handlers to rate MWD performance. Proficiency training should be conducted daily and can be accomplished while on watch. MWD teams can be worked 7 days a week and extend beyond an 8-hour workday, if necessary, provided that break periods, i.e., food, water, rest, etc., are offered.

b. Use drug/explosive detector dogs a minimum of 5 hours per week for drug/explosive interdiction sweeps. The "ride awhile, walk awhile" patrol concept will allow handlers to conduct security functions in addition to scheduled and random MWD drug/explosive inspections. "Actual use" for detector dogs reflects scheduled and random drug/explosive inspections. "Actual use" for patrol dogs reflects time spent during law enforcement, physical security, and deterrence patrols.

c. When 1-day training/4-day cycle is used, training days will consist of 8 hours minimum training in obedience, patrol, and detector proficiency trials, to determine the MWDs proficiency level. Additionally, advanced training should be conducted to raise the proficiency level of MWDs. Training days should vary, when practical, and be conducted on all dogs as a unit to allow team familiarization and hands-on supervision by the kennel master. This will assist in early identification of deficiencies and less frequent use of occupied spaces for training purposes.

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d. MWDs should be exercised daily to increase/maintain the necessary stamina to perform required tasks. MWDs should accompany the handler on leash in the heel position during running exercise.

1-5. Collateral Duties. MWD handlers are required to maintain current qualifications in law enforcement/physical security and military knowledge. These qualifications should be recorded in individual training folders. Daily schedules and watch bills provide for these functions.

1-6. Dual Qualification/Dual Employment. P/DD and P/E teams will perform normal patrol duties when not required for detection work. Failure to assign them to the full range of their capabilities causes these teams to quickly lose patrol proficiency.

1-7. Maintaining Positive Control. Handlers must be able to maintain positive control of their MWD when off leash. All off leash training should be conducted in an enclosed training area. Kennel masters and trainers will closely monitor off leash training and take immediate action to correct any control problems. No off leash training with explosives shall be conducted. Handlers must inform any personnel present of the potential danger of a MWD. Do not allow people to pet MWDs.

1-8. Security of Kennel Facilities. The following minimum requirements must be met when kennels are unattended:

a. A MWD handler/kennel support person must be on call at all times.

b. The kennel facility and all occupied kennel runs must be secured. Keys must be readily available to the on-call handler, the security supervisor, and kennel support person, if assigned.

c. The kennel facility and each MWD must be checked by patrols at least every 4 hours. Emergency conditions, i.e., sick/injured MWD, etc., will be handled as necessary.

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1-9. MWD Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Each MWD unit will have written SOPs, approved by the security officer/provost marshal, that address department procedures and implementation of this manual.

1-10. Privately Owned Pets. Privately owned pets or base mascots are not allowed within the confines of the MWD facility. Only MWDs procured, trained, or accepted by DoD as MWDs will be housed at military kennel facilities. MWD handlers on temporary duty who wish to kennel a MWD overnight must make arrangements with the host kennel before travel.

1-11. Stray Animal Facilities. Stray animal facilities will not be located within 100 yards of MWD kennels. Stray animals will not normally be transported in MWD vehicles. Handlers (or kennel support personnel, if assigned) will not be used to support the functions of stray animal facilities.

1-12. MWD Vehicles

a. An appropriate number of properly equipped law enforcement vehicles, will be available for use by the MWD section for patrol operations. If possible, the installation of dog vehicle inserts/remote bailout systems, which provide maximum safety and effectiveness for MWD teams, should be installed. Ensure that MWDs exit patrol vehicle on the non-traffic side of the roadway. MWD vehicles should be configured to allow the handler immediate access to the MWD. Use of vans and pick-up trucks severely limit the handlers ability to access MWDs quickly and are not recommended for MWD missions. Vans and pickups are acceptable for use as support vehicles for transporting large numbers of MWDs for logistical purposes, i.e., emergency evacuation/mission staging. MWDs will not be transported in privately owned vehicles or on front passenger seats of any vehicle.

b. MWD Vehicle Marking. The vehicle will be clearly marked on both sides as indicated in Figure 1-1.

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CAUTION  
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Figure 1-1

In foreign countries, signs will be lettered in the language of the host country as well as in English. Figure 1-1 wording may be stenciled on both sides of the vehicles in 3-inch letters.